



## **E-NEWS from** ***Congresswoman Jennifer Dunn***

**An electronic legislative update for September 11, 2002**



**United by the memory  
of the heroes and  
victims September 11,  
we are a nation  
determined to win the  
war on terrorism.**

### ***In remembrance of the victims and heroes of September, 11...***

- ***More than 3,000 people died in the September 11 attacks. They came from many different races and religions.***
- ***184 people died and 146 children lost a parent in the Pentagon attacks.***
- ***343 firefighters and paramedics, and 60 police officers perished at the World Trade Center. One business alone lost more than 700 employees, leaving behind at least 50 pregnant widows.***

### **IN MEMORY OF 9-11 VICTIMS, THE HOUSE PASSED A RESOLUTION DECLARING TODAY "PATRIOT DAY"**

The US House has passed a measure calling for every September 11 to be "Patriot Day." The Resolution expresses sympathy to the countless innocent victims of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, their families, friends and loved ones. It honors the heroic actions of first responders, law enforcement personnel, state and local officials, volunteers and others who helped the innocent victims. Finally, the resolution expresses thanks and gratitude for the foreign leaders and citizens of all nations who have assisted in the war against terrorism.

# DID YOU KNOW...

- Jennifer is lead House sponsor of bill to expand the AMBER alert nationwide.
- 74 percent of the children who are kidnapped and later found murdered are killed within the first three hours after being taken.
- The AMBER alert is named after 9-year-old Amber Hagerman who was kidnapped and murdered in 1996. It is a voluntary partnership between law-enforcement agencies and broadcasters to send out an emergency alert to the public when a child has been abducted and it is believed that the child's life is in grave danger.
- The AMBER alert has been credited with assisting in the recovery of 27 children.



Jennifer held a press conference last week with Texas Democrat, Representative Martin Frost (right of Jennifer in photo) to discuss the Dunn-Frost legislation that will expand the AMBER alert nationwide. A similar bill passed the Senate earlier this week.

## **JENNIFER AND DEMOCRAT LEADER INTRODUCE BILL TO EXPAND AMBER ALERT NATIONWIDE**

Jennifer has joined Democratic Caucus Chair Martin Frost to introduce bipartisan legislation to establish nationwide coordination for the AMBER Alert communications network and provide incentives to help bring the AMBER Alert plan to every State. The AMBER alert is currently running in 43 areas around the nation and credited with the recovery of 27 missing children. Congresswoman Dunn and Congressman Frost's legislation will provide federal funding to expand the program nationwide. Identical legislation in the Senate sponsored by Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX) and Diane Feinstein (D-CA) was approved earlier this week.

During the recent press conference, Jennifer said, "It is a shame that there are so many laws named after little children who have died. Time and time again, the AMBER alert works immediately to bring these little ones home alive. Expanding it nationwide will help ensure that fewer parents have to live the nightmare of having their children snatched from their lives, never to be seen again."

The bill provides matching funding and assistance to communities that wish to create an AMBER alert program. For areas like Seattle where an AMBER alert plan is already in the early stages of implementation, the bill would provide additional resources.

## **US HOUSE SCHEDULED TO CONSIDER BACK TO SCHOOL TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2002**

The US House is scheduled to consider a bill to provide lower income families with an above the-line tax deduction of up to \$3,000 to help with their children's educational expenses. Deductible expenses include tuition, academic tutoring, special needs services, books, supplies, uniforms and computer equipment for educational needs. The deduction will be available to families with incomes of \$20,000 or less (\$40,000 for married couples).

# Summary of Press Releases

## **JENNIFER ATTENDED SPECIAL CONGRESSIONAL SESSION IN NEW YORK**

Jennifer traveled to New York City Friday, September 6 to participate in an historic special session of Congress. Last Friday's session marked the one-year anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and only the second time that Congress has met outside of Washington, DC. Upon her return from New York, Jennifer said, "It is important that Congress recognize the one year anniversary of the horrific attacks that forever changed our nation. As lawmakers, we must honor the victims of September 11 by working to ensure that no American family feels the pain of terrorism again," said Jennifer.

## **US GOVT ISSUES HEIGHTENED SECURITY ALERT; *Jennifer Issued Statement***

US Attorney General John Ashcroft and Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge yesterday announced that the US and US interests abroad are under a heightened security alert stemming from fear of terrorist attacks on the anniversary of the September 11 attacks. Using the color-coded alert system, government officials increased the security threat from "yellow," or elevated conditions to "orange," or high conditions. Following the announcement of increased security threats, Jennifer released the following statement:

*"I am confident that Americans are far more prepared to deal with terrorist threats than we were a year ago. The past year has proven that Americans are strong, united and less vulnerable than we were prior to September 11, 2001.*

*"The security alert system makes sense and today's heightened alert should serve merely as a reminder that we all must stay alert and aware of our surroundings. It was not meant to suggest that Americans' lives come to a standstill prompted by fear. To do so would be to surrender to the wishes of our enemies.*

*"As Attorney General Ashcroft and Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge recommended, I plan to spend September 11, 2002 reflecting on the tragic loss of life we suffered last year and the way we have coped together with strength and courage, while continuing my normal, daily activities."*